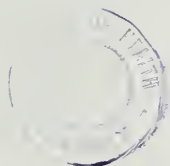


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BRIGHTLINGSEA
URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for 1957



BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1957.

Chairman:

Cr. R. B. WHITE

Vice-Chairman:

Cr. A. P. BENDALL

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Cr. J. ELLIS

Cr. A. P. BENDALL

Cr. R. G. LORD

Cr. R. V. CROOK

Cr. C. H. PALLOT

Cr. C. O. FENSOM

Cr. R. B. WHITE

Cr. R. FRENCH

Cr. J. J. SIMMONS

R. D. PEARCE, M.R.C.S.(Eng), L.R.C.P.(Lon), D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of
Brightlingsea, Clacton, Frinton and Walton, the Rural
District of Tendring and Assistant County Medical Officer.

J. COLVIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector
Surveyor
Meat and Food Inspector.

I. S. PRIEST,

Water Manager.



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STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIGHTLINGSEA 1957.

Area in acres	2,852
Population:				
1957 Registrar General's Estimate	...	...	...	4,630
1951 Census	...	...	...	4,502
Density of population per acre	...	...	...	1.6
Rateable value	...	...	...	£41,135
Sum represented by penny rate (1957-58)	...	...	...	£164
Number of inhabited dwellings (approx.)	...	...	...	1,760
Total live births	...	...	...	55
Live birth rate	...	...	...	11.8
Live birth rate corrected	...	...	...	13.9
Total still births	...	...	...	3
Still birth rate (per thousand births)	...	...	...	51.7
Total deaths	...	...	...	52
Crude death rate	...	...	...	11.2
Death rate corrected	...	...	...	7.8
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	Nil
Infantile mortality rate	...	...	...	-
Number of illegitimate births	...	...	...	1
Percentage of total births	...	...	...	1.7
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil
Total deaths due to cancer	...	...	...	7
Total deaths due to cancer of lung	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis deaths	...	...	...	1

NATIONAL STATISTICS

Live birth rate	...	...	...	16.1
Death rate	...	...	...	11.5
Infantile mortality rate	...	...	...	23.0
Still birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	...	22.4

Town Hall,
Brightlingsea.
March, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Brightlingsea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of Public Health in the Brightlingsea Urban District for 1957. Once again the Report is produced in duplicated form.

CONFERENCE IN HEALTH EDUCATION

In the early part of December the Central Council for Health Education accepted an invitation I extended to them to hold a three hour conference in Health Education for Members of the Councils for each of the Authorities for whom I act.

The conference was a considerable success. Both Dr. Dalzell Ward, the Deputy Director, and Mr. Porter spoke on the scope of Health Education and the modes and methods used. Interest was aroused and many questions were put to each of the lecturers and the ensuing discussions were most enlightening.

The conference was held in the Council Chamber at Clacton. Tea was provided during the interval and this gave Councillors a fine opportunity to discuss with the lecturers any points which they wished.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

At the beginning of the year the town was struck by an epidemic of Poliomyelitis of a mild character.

At the end of January a child with symptoms of Poliomyelitis was seen by his doctor and the child was subsequently admitted to hospital. No other cases were known to exist at the time in East Essex. No other cases occurred until 16th March when two further cases were notified and from this time until the beginning of June 37 further confirmed cases occurred. In the whole year 47 cases were notified of which 41 were confirmed. Further statistics are shown later in the report.

Laboratory evidence confirmed that the outbreak was due to Type I Polio Virus and further investigations indicated that the spread of the disease was by human contact. There was no evidence to suggest either food or waterborne spread. No trace of the virus was detected in any of the oysters.

The two main features of the outbreak were

- a) the unusual time of the year during which it occurred.
- b) the mildness of the disease.

I would like to record my thanks to the local doctors for their excellent co-operation during this outbreak. It was a difficult time for all connected with the health of the community, and with this co-operation it made the control of the outbreak less difficult. There could well have been twice the number of cases and we must all be very thankful that the disease ran such a mild course in those who suffered from the paralytic form.

The number of cases of other notifiable disease was very small and calls for no comment.

IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued during the year. A large number of children were immunised. Much comment appeared in the National Press, particularly during the time at which outbreaks of Poliomyelitis occurred in various parts of the country. The programme of immunisation envisaged in the immediate future is to include expectant mothers, who seem particularly vulnerable to the paralytic form of the disease.

In the past nine years notifications of diphtheria throughout the country have fallen from 3,575 to 51. Deaths from diphtheria have decreased in the same period from 156 to 8. In the County of Essex 61 cases of diphtheria were notified in 1948 and only two in 1956; and the deaths from the disease have fallen from two in 1948 to none in 1956.

It must not be forgotten, however, that diphtheria is still a deadly disease and immunisation is the only safeguard.

Whooping Cough and Diphtheria immunisation continue. The outbreak of smallpox that occurred in London during the summer led to an increase in the demand for vaccination against the disease. The incident itself reminded us of the presence of smallpox and that with the increased speed of travel precautions must continue to be taken.

HOUSING

Progress is being made with the 'slum clearance' programme. The building of new houses has continued and it is hoped that some of the new property will be used to re-house families living in unfit property in order that the latter may be demolished.

GENERAL

It is a pleasure to record my thanks to both the Council and the Public Health Committee for the co-operation during the year. To the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector I also express my thanks for his grand assistance, particularly during the outbreak of Poliomyelitis.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R.D.PEARCE,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population:

The Registrar General's estimation of the population has increased very slightly.

Live Births:

The number of births is exactly the same as 1956. The corrected birth rate is lower than that for England and Wales for 1957.

Still Births:

There were three still births in 1957 in comparison with two in 1956, with a corresponding rise in the still birth rate.

Deaths:

The corrected death rate is 3.9 lower than the previous year and 3.7 lower than the National rate.

There were no deaths of infants under one year, an improvement on 1956 when two infants died.

LIVE BIRTHS

Male	Female
32	23
Total	55.

The principal causes of, and various ages at, death are given in the following tables:-

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1957.

CAUSE OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis ...	1	-	1
Cancer (all sites) ...	6	1	7
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	12	14
Coronary artery disease ...	4	4	8
Other heart disease ...	2	5	7
Other circulatory disease ...	4	2	6
Influenza ...	-	1	1
Pneumonia ...	-	1	1
Bronchitis ...	3	-	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Other causes ...	2	-	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25	27	52
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

DEATH AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1957.

55 and under 65 years	...	12
65 and under 75 years	...	21
75 and under 85 years	...	16
85 and over	...	3
		<hr/>
		52
		<hr/>

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following figures show the number of infectious diseases which were notified in the district during 1957:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases to Hospital	Cases at Home	Cases Confirmed	Deaths
Infective					
Hepatitis	1	-	1	1	-
Measles	10	-	10	10	-
Poliomyelitis	47	46	-	41	-
Puerperal					
Pyrexia	2	-	2	2	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	1	-
Tuberculosis	1	1	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	2	2	-
Totals:	64	47	16	58	-

TUBERCULOSIS 1957

One new case of Tuberculosis was notified as occurring in the district and one death ascribed to this disease occurred.

TOTAL CASES ON REGISTER AT END OF 1957 = 33.

The age groups of the cases on the register are as follows:-

Age Groups in Years	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1 - 5	1	-	-	1	2
5 - 15	-	1	-	-	1
15 - 25	3	1	1	1	6
25 - 35	4	3	1	-	8
35 - 45	3	1	-	1	5
45 - 55	5	-	1	-	6
55 - 65	2	1	-	-	3
65 - 75	1	-	1	-	2
Totals:	19	7	4	3	33

Table showing the Age Groups of Persons who contracted Poliomyelitis.

Age	Paralytic		Non-Paralytic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1 -	1	1	-	1
3 -	2	1	1	2
4 -	3	-	2	2
5 - 9	8	4	2	1
10 - 14	-	-	-	2
15 - 24	2	-	-	1
25 - over	2	1	-	2
Totals:	18	7	5	11

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply of the town has been satisfactory during the year. Water continued to be supplied from the two wells at Lower Park Road and the shallow well at Church Road. At the beginning of the year the new diesel engine was installed at the Church Road Works and the introduction of this new machinery has resulted in some economy in pumping costs combined with a greater degree of reliability.

Samples of water have been submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination at regular intervals and all samples have given satisfactory results. Some minor increase in the salt content of the deep bore hole at the Lower Park Road Works is evident but the amount of increase was not significant.

The need for an emergency supply of water, should the deep well at the Lower Park Road Works fail, has been considered and serious consideration is being given to a link up to the Tendring Rural District Council mains which extend fairly close to the boundary of this authority's area.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Progress with the survey of the town's sewers has been improved this year and this work will be continued as soon as time is available.

During the year, sewer pipes were exposed in Sydney Street and the joints of the pipes where exposed were found to be in a very defective condition. There is every reason to believe that the remainder of the pipes in this Street are in a similar condition.

Whilst the Sewage Works continued to function during the year considerable work has had to be carried out to the de-sludging pipe line and pump. The condition of the works is generally very poor and serious overloading of the works, particularly during periods of high rainfall, is experienced. The Council propose to carry out minor remedial works, wherever possible, so as to prolong the life of the plant until such time as the economic position of the Country will permit the rebuilding of the Works.

RIVER AND STREAM POLLUTION

During periods of moderate rainfall and dry weather pollution of the Creek from the Sewage Works is not high. Discharge of sewage effluent is restricted to a period of two to four hours after high water. As the number of premises not connected to the main sewage is very low, stream pollution is non-existent.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

The following is a synopsis of the principal work carried out by the Public Health Inspector during 1957:-

Inspections (Public Health and Housing Acts)	1,213
Other Inspections	648
Informal Notices complied with	15
Statutory Notices served	-
Statutory Notices complied with	-
Number of Premises at which Nuisances abated	15

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PRINCIPAL IMPROVEMENTS OBTAINED:- *

HOUSES

Dirty	...	...	...	1
Verminous	...	...	...	1
Damp	...	...	...	6
Defective pointing of external walls				4
Defective roofs	...	...		26
Defective plaster of walls and ceiling				15
Defective floors	...	...		8
Defective windows and frames		...		13
Want of ventilation	...	...		1
Defective doorsteps	...	...		2
Defective doors or door frames		...		17
Want of or defective skirting boards				6
Water supply cut off or insufficient				41

DRAINAGE

Want of drainage	...	...	1
Defective drainage	...	...	27
Stopped drains	...	...	9
Defective sink, waste pipe, etc.			20
Other defects	...	...	85

CLOSETS

Structure defective	...	...	1
Fittings defective	...	...	23
Want of water supply to closet cistern			1
Broken closet pedestals and pans			7
Defective flushing apparatus	...		22

PAVING

Yards, passages or paths defective			8
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OTHER NUISANCES

Accumulations	1
Other outside defects	-

DUSTBINS

Defective or insufficient	...		28
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* Includes Local Authority Property.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Infested Houses

(a)	Council Houses	...	...	Nil
(b)	Other Houses	...	...	1
(c)	Caravans	...	...	Nil

Number of Houses Disinfested

(a)	Council Houses	...	...	Nil
(b)	Other Houses	...	...	1
(c)	Caravans	...	...	Nil

VERMIN, MOTH, ETC.

Rooms fumigated)	
Houses fumigated	)	Nil
Caravans fumigated)	

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Premises registered)	
Inspections at premises	)	Nil

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Inspections were made and the requirements of the Act were explained where necessary. Sanitary defects were found and dealt with.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951.

There are no manufacturers of Rag Flock within the Urban District.

BATHING POOL

The operation of the Local Authority's Open Air Swimming Pool has been much improved during the year. This improvement has arisen from the recent extension of the main suction pipe which permits the water in the Pool to be renewed at more frequent intervals.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING GROUNDS

The Local Authority operates the only two large Caravan Sites within their area, both sites are sited on the Western Promenade and are provided with adequate sanitary facilities.

Considerable improvement has been undertaken to the Lakeside Site consisting of re-levelling and draining and erection of an additional sanitary and laundry block. Improvement work has been commenced to the Tower End Site which should result in freeing this area from flooding during wet weather.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Visits by Public Health Inspector	62
Visits by the Rodent Operator	232

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Reg- ister (3)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (6)
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	7	9	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	26	24	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises)	3	4	8	-	-
Totals:	6	32	41	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Rem- edied (4)	To H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspec- tor (6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	4	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	6	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	7	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a)						
Insufficient (b)	9	1	1	-	1	-
Unsuitable or Defective (c)	10	1	1	-	1	-
Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-
Other offen- ces against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	12	2	2	-	1	-
Totals:	60	6	6	-	3	-

SECTION 34.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

One certificate was issued during the year.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (SECTION 110)

Nature of work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No of Out- workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (e) (3)	Section 110 No of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)
Wearing Apparel, Making etc.	-	-	-	-
Totals:	-	-	-	-

Inspection of Outworkers Premises Nil.

HOUSING

New Houses and Flats erected during 1957

Number of Houses

Private Enterprise	14
Council Houses	8
	—
	22
	—

FOOD

The following list shows the number of visits paid to premises at which food for human consumption is sold or prepared:-

Cafes and Restaurants	...	8
School Canteens	...	1
Butchers' Shops	...	46
Fish Friers	...	1
Wet Fish Shops	...	2
Bread and Cake Shops	...	2
Slaughterhouses	...	37
Ice Cream Vendors	...	12
Bakehouses	...	3
Dairies	...	1

The following is a list of improvements obtained in Food Premises:-

Want of washing facilities		2
Want of cleanliness	...	1
Condition of walls	...	1
Condition of ceilings	...	1
Defects in drainage	...	1
Sanitary accommodation	...	1

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

The number of premises registered pursuant to Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act is as follows:-

Sausage Meat, Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Meat	...	6
Sale of Ice Cream	...	15

FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY

The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority for the District.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are two licensed slaughterhouses.

The following list gives details of the diseased or unsound meat and other foods found unfit for human consumption. They were surrendered voluntarily and destroyed or used for animal feeding.

Unsound food dealt with by the Council is disposed of at the Controlled Tip.

Cod Fillet	...	3 lbs
Mutton	...	47 lbs
Peaches	...	15 tins
Crawfish	...	1 tin
Tomato Juice	...	5 tins
Tomatoes	...	8 tins

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed(if known)	-	-	-	-	67
Number Inspected	-	-	-	-	67
Diseases except Tuberculosis and <u>Cysticerci</u> :	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and <u>Cysticerci</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

MILK SUPPLY

The milk supply for the Urban District is obtained from Dairy Companies in the Area.

MILK (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

There are 7 registered distributors supplying milk in the District of whom 6 have premises within the Area.

Dealer's Licences Pasteurised Milk	4
Supplementary Licences Pasteurised Milk	1
Dealer's Licences Tuberculin Tested Milk	4
Supplementary Licences Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Dealer's Licence Sterilised Milk	3

Producers and Producer-retailers are the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture.

ICE CREAM

The total number of persons registered to sell ice cream is 15. No ice cream is sold in this District except as pre-wrapped from reputable sources. All samples of ice cream examined were Grade I.

BAKE HOUSES

There are 4 bakehouses in the Urban District, but there are no underground bakehouses. Three inspections were made during the year.

SHELLFISH

During 1957, 1,132,991 Oysters were passed through the purification tanks at Brightlingsea. No unsatisfactory results were obtained from bacteriological examinations.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Local Authority has undertaken the removal of domestic refuse within their area, collection is weekly with the exception of a small number of premises on the outskirts of the area where the collection is once every two weeks.

Disposal is by controlled tipping on the Western Promenade in the winter and adjacent to the Sewage Works in the summer. A new summer tipping site has been found and this should come into operation in the summer of 1958; the re-siting of the summer tipping should improve conditions on the Western Promenade.

The highways in the district are frequently cleansed and street gullies are emptied regularly.

